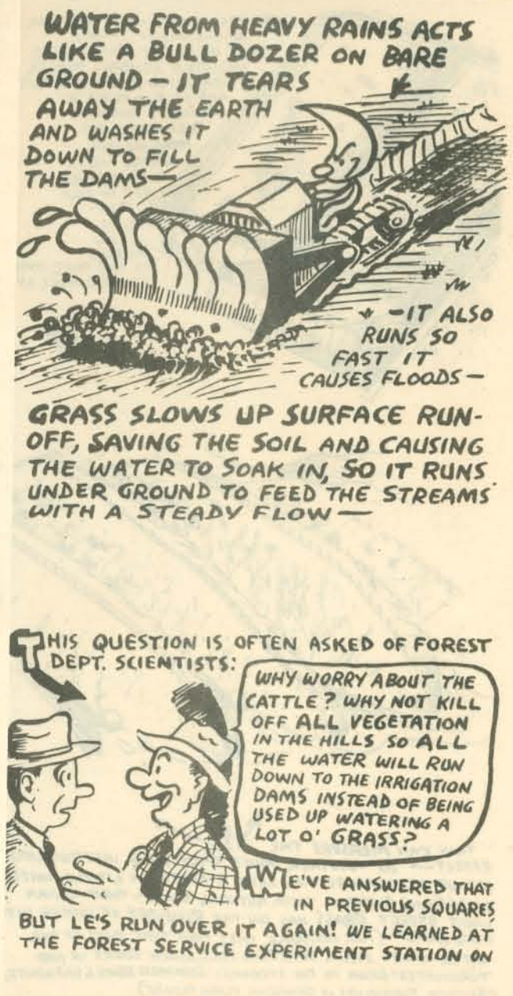

WHILE LARGE AREAS OF THE WEST HAVE BEEN RUINED BY OVERGRAZING IN THE PAST. FORESTRY OFFICIALS TELL US MUCH OF THE GRASS LAND CAN BE REVIVED — WE SAW LARGE TEST AREAS, FENCED OFF FOR SEVERAL YEARS, WHERE GRASS IS ON THE INCREASE, IN SPITE OF THE LONG DROUTH — IN THESE AREAS GRASS IS CHOKING OUT HARMFUL WEEDS—

CONSERVATIONISTS AND STOCKMEN (THOUGH THEY OFTEN DISAGREE) ARE SERIOUSLY WORKING ON HOW BEST TO SAVE THE GRASS — AND, IN THE END, WHAT'S BEST FOR COMING GENERATIONS OF STOCKMEN, WILL ALSO SAVE THE WATER RESOURCES OF VALLEY FARM AND CITY DWELLERS——

This leaflet reproduces actual drawings by Reg Manning as published in the Arizona Republic, Phoenix, Arizona

Prepared by

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 1946 O-21

GO TO GRASS

— By REG MANNING —

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GRASS — WHEN MOST FOLKS THINK OF GRASS, THEY ASSOCIATE IT WITH LAWN MOWERS — O' COURSE WE KNOW THAT COWS EAT TH' STUFF — BUT THAT'S ABOUT AS MUCH AS WE KNOW —

WELL, RECENTLY WE SPENT SEVERAL DAYS STUDYING GRASS WITH TONTO FOREST SUPERVISOR LEE KIRBY — AND WE LEARNED GRASS IS USED FOR SOMETHIN' BESIDES LAWNS —

DRIVE ALONG ANY HIGHWAY, AND, AT THE CUTS, YOU CAN SEE THE SHALLOW TOP SOIL — IN WESTERN HILLS IT IS SELDOM MORE THAN A FEW INCHES DEEP —

TOP SOIL IS THE "SKIN" OF THE EARTH — FOLIAGE IS THE "HAIR"

IT TAKES HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO "MAKE" ONE INCH OF TOP SOIL — WITHOUT GRASS A SINGLE STORM MAY SCALP OFF SEVERAL INCHES OF THIS "SKIN" (TOP SOIL)

WHEN TOP SOIL IS GONE, THE LAND IS PRACTICALLY USELESS — NOTHING WORTH WHILE WILL GROW —

NEXT TIME YOU'RE TRAVELING AROUND, FIND A BUNCH OF WILD GRASS AND STUDY IT — THIS BUNCH HAS QUITE A STORY — IT'S "THE LAST MAN"

NOTE THE CIRCLE OF DEAD TUFTS. THIS SHOWS THE CLUMP OF GRASS WAS ONCE QUITE LARGE, COMPOSED OF SEVERAL BUNCHES JOINED BY "VINE" TENTACLES

EROSION HAS SET IN, BARING THE DEAD ROOTS

THIS ONE LONE SPRIG FIGHTS ON FOR LIFE!

— LEFT ALONE, IT WILL SPREAD AGAIN IN A FEW YEARS — BUT IF IT IS CHEWED OFF, IT TOO WILL GIVE UP THE GHOST —

WHEN THE GRASS DIES, WEEDS MOVE IN, LIKE THE HATED SNAKE WEED, WHICH CATTLE DON'T RELISH AT ALL — WEEDS HELP STAVE OFF SOME EROSION, BUT NOT LIKE GRASS —

WE SAW THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF ONCE-RICH GRASS LAND THAT ARE NOW DENUDED, OR SPARSELY COVERED WITH WEEDS — WORTHLESS FOR GRAZING AND A SOURCE OF SILT TO WASH INTO OUR RESERVOIRS — WHAT'S TO BE DONE? WHAT IS BEING DONE —?

HOW TO MAKE GRASS GROW ON LAND WHERE IT HAS ALMOST DIED OUT? HOW TO STOP TOP-SOIL FROM WASHING INTO AND CLOGGING OUR DAMS? THOSE AND OTHER QUESTIONS ARE BEING WORKED ON AT THE FOREST SERVICE'S SIERRA ANCHA EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, NORTH OF ROOSEVELT RESERVOIR — (VISITORS WELCOME)

HEADQUARTERS OF SIERRA ANCHA EXPERIMENTAL FOREST — (ABOUT 25 MILES NORTH OF THE APACHE TRAIL TURN-OFF)

TO PAYSON

SPECTACULAR CANYON SEEN FROM ROAD

ROOSEVELT LAKE

ROOSEVELT DAM

13 MILES FROM DAM TO TURN-OFF

TO TURN-OFF

APACHE TRAIL

TO PHOENIX

12 MILES TO GLOBE, MIAMI AND

THEY'VE GOT LITTLE DAMS, EQUIPPED WITH MECHANICAL DEVICES, WHICH KEEP A PEN-AND-INK RECORD OF ALL WATER FLOW —

IT'S ASTOUNDING. THE CONSTANT CHECK THEY CAN KEEP ON THE EARTH —

IMAGINE, "SAWING" OUT CHUNKS O' TH' LANDSCAPE, THEN LITERALLY MEASURING EVERY DROP O' WATER AND GRAIN O' DIRT THAT WASHES OFF 'EM — FEW ARIZONIANS KNOW ABOUT THIS LAND LABORATORY —

NEXT WEEK WE'LL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE MARVELS OF SIERRA ANCHA FOREST —

AT SIERRA ANCHA EXPERIMENTAL FOREST SCIENTISTS CAN TRAIL A DROP OF WATER FROM CLOUD TO ROOSEVELT DAM — TO YOUR "VICTORY GARDEN" OR LAWN —

NOT A DROP ESCAPES 'EM — THEY CHART ITS FALL AND FOLLOW AS IT RUNS ALONG THE GROUND →

THEY EVEN KEEP TRACK OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT LI'L OL' DROP SOAKS INTO THE SOIL →

— AND THEY FOUND: ABOUT EIGHT OF EVERY 10 DROPS ON OUR WATER SHED ARE SUCKED RIGHT BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AGAIN — ONLY TWO OF EVERY 10 DROPS RUN DOWN OR SOAK IN — WATER THAT SOAKS IN HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF REACHING THE DAM —

AT THE EXPERIMENT STA AMONG MANY THINGS, THEY HAVE CUT AROUND A ISOLATED SEVERAL FIE SEPARATED BY DEEP TR AND HELD IN PLACE BY CONCRETE WALLS — THEY CATCH AND MEASURE ALL WATER AND SILT THAT WASHES OFF OF EACH PLOT — THEY ALLOW GRAZING ON ONE PLOT ON THE NE

THEY CAN MEASURE THE EFFECT — AT ANOTHER POINT THEY HAVE INSTRUM SET UP TO MEASURE THE SAME EFFECTS ON LITTLE W SHEDS (HILLS) RIGHT IN THEIR NATURAL STATE — THEY LEA WHAT EFFECT GRASS HAS ON THE RUN-OFF OF WATER OUR DAMS — (FOR INSTANCE, THEY FIND THAT MOST OF OU WATER COMES FROM WINTER FALL, WHICH SOAKS IN AN "PERCOLATES" DOWN TO THE STREAMS — SUMMER RAINS EVAPO DISSIPATE THEMSELVES IN DAMAGING FLASH FLOODS)

AT THE FOREST SERVICE'S EXPERI STATION ON PARKER CREEK SCIENTISTS STUDY WHAT HAPPENS WATER ON OUR IRRIGATION "WATER SH

OF EVERY 10 RAIN DROPS THAT F ON RANGE AND FOREST, THIS HAPPENS TO

APPOXIMATELY SEVEN (OF EVERY 10) RAIN DROPS ARE SUCKED RIGHT BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE BY EVAPORATION!

ONE DROP IS USED BY FOLIAGE, THEN IS "BREATHED" BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE

TWO (OR LESS) DROPS REACH THE STREAMS TO RUN DOWN TO THE DAMS.